

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] For call delivery scenarios, it is advantageous (from the point of the network operator controlling the exchange for which the dialed telephone number is assigned) to provide call progress to the calling party as soon as possible. For LMSD networks where the call origination message is routed to the Home MSCe [[though]] through a GSTN, embodiments described herein provide for the home network to generate a call progress signal until the serving network is capable to generate the call progress signal. Particularly, embodiments described herein provide for the home network to provide a call progress signal until a bearer path between the GSTN and the serving network has been established.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0027] The home MSCe then commences a location procedure to identify the present location of the terminal device. For example, the home MSCe, responsive to receipt of the call origination and dialed address digits, then interrogates the HLRe associated with the terminal device (step 204). The interrogation may comprise a TIA-41 location request (LOCREQ) that includes the dialed address digits (DGTSDIAL) passed as parameters thereof to the HLRe. The HLRe then queries subscriber data maintained thereby to determine if the dialed address digits are assigned to a legitimate subscriber and an associative terminal device. Assuming the dialed address digits are assigned to a legitimate subscriber, the HLRe then identifies a VLR in a serving network where the called terminal device is last listed as registered and sends a TIA-41 route request (ROUTREQ) thereto (step 206).

The route request message may include a mobile station identifier (MSID) of the called terminal device. The serving VLR then forwards the route request to the current serving MSCe (step 208). The serving MSCe may evaluate internal records maintained thereby to determine if the called terminal device is currently engaged in a call on the serving MSCe. The serving MSCe allocates a temporary local directory number (TLDN), and returns this information to the serving VLR (step 210). Additionally, the MSCe starts a temporarily local directory number association timer (TLDNAT). The [[TDLN]] TLDN along with any additional information for the serving MSCe is returned to the home network HLRe (step 212). The home HLRe returns a location request response to the home MSCe (step 214). The location request response may include routing information passed as parameters thereof, such as a termination list (TRMLIST) and an indication for extending the incoming call that is included in a DMH_RedirectionIndicator (REDIND) passed as a parameter of the location request. The home MSCe completes the terminal device location by translating the TLDN to a serving MSCe IP address and UDP port number pair, and a serving MSCe SIP universal resource identifier (URI).

Please replace paragraph [0028] with the following amended paragraph:

[0028] Since the location information obtained by the home MSCe identifies the location of the terminal

device as within another serving LMSD, the home MSCe is able to utilize an IP call control protocol (e.g., SIP) and a packet-based bearer transport (e.g., IP) between the home and serving network. To this end, the home MSCe maps the GSTN call control protocol (e.g., ISUP) to SIP for session establishment. Additionally, the home MSCe signals a home MGW to setup a connection that will convert the TDM bearer data of the GSTN to packet data bearer, e.g., real-time transport protocol (RTP) over IP, for data transmission across the home LMSD network to the serving LMSD network. To this end, the home MSCe establishes a context with a home MGW (step 216). Establishment of the context between the home MSCe and the home MGW may be made by way of an H.248 message that comprises two ADD commands. The first ADD command establishes a termination to the GSTN communication channel, for example a [[DSO]] DS0 on a T1 or E1 trunk, that corresponds to the incoming call origination. The communication channel mode may be set to receive only (recvonly) to facilitate fraud protection. The second ADD command establishes a termination for a bearer channel using RTP. The home MGW replies to the home MSCe by sending an H.248 Reply message containing a local Session Description Protocol (SDP) message (designated SDP-O) for the home MGW (step 218). The information within SDP-O may include items like the IP address and UDP port number for which the home MGW desires to receive bearer data on and possibly a list of transcoders that the home MGW supports.